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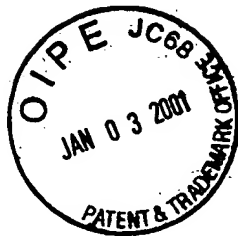
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

NISHIMURA et al

Serial No. 09/688,169

Filed: October 16, 2000



Atty. Ref.: 1035-286

Group: 1764

Examiner: to be assigned

For: PACKED COLUMN AND POLYMERIZABLE
COMPOUND TREATING METHOD USING THE SAME

* * * * *

January 3, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449, a copy of each of which is enclosed. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

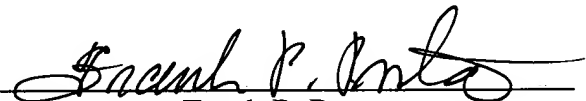
The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

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The undersigned attorney of record hereby certifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) that each item of information referenced herein and attached hereto was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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